

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore addressed members of MANA, a national organization of Latinas, at its annual leadership training held in Washington, D.C. last month. Eighty-five Latinas of all ages were present to participate in the D.C.-based organization's yearly training for MANA's professional Fellows, as well as its Hermanitas youth program. Congresswoman Moore, along with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano of California, spoke to the MANA members at a briefing about the issues they have worked on as Congresswomen that affect Latinas.

"I was so pleased to be able to speak to this promising group of women. MANA is so valuable because it focuses resources on fostering the development of our Latina youth and adolescents in communities across the nation," said Congresswoman Moore. "MANA's mentorship and leadership training empowers these young women to be positive forces within their own communities, while providing them with the understanding of how important it is for them to speak out and be politically active throughout their lives."

After speaking to members of MANA, Congresswoman Moore spoke one-on-one about financial service issues in the Hispanic community with [Judy Chapa](#), senior advisor for the Money Smart program at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and a former Milwaukee resident. As a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, Congresswoman Moore is a strong proponent of increasing financial literacy among minorities as one means to obtain equality in the United States.

Founded in 1974, MANA is a non-profit advocacy organization with chapters located around the country. MANA's AvanZamos Ford Fellowship Program prepares professional Latinas to return to their chapter affiliates to train mentors, known as Madrinas, for MANA's premier mentorship program for Latina girls between the ages of 11 and 18. MANA's Hermanitas Leadership Institute is part of a year-round program that encourages Latina adolescents to stay in school and aim high academically. MANA also provides resources, counseling, and skill-building programs for Latina youth.

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